Amendments to the Claims

No amendments have been made. The claims are listed below.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A pledget and a surgical arteriotomy staple comprising, in combination:

an individual staple having a proximal end adapted for individual attachment to a single-staple delivery device, the staple having a plurality of distally extending prongs commonly connected to the proximal end and having tissue-piercing distal tips with sufficient stiffness to pierce tissue solely in response to a distal force applied at the proximal end and without supplemental support of the prongs, the proximal end of the staple being configured to enable the delivery device to control closure of the staple prongs solely by manipulation of the proximal end of the staple;

the pledget being pre-attached to the staple and being embraced by the prongs, the pledget having edges configured to be frictionally engaged by and between the prongs to capture and retain the pledget on the staple by the engagement of the pledget edges with the prongs and to enable the combined staple and attached pledget to be advanced together, by a single-staple delivery device, toward the arteriotomy, whereby when the prongs of the staple are engaged with tissue about the arteriotomy and are closed about the arteriotomy, the pledget will be disposed and retained adjacent the arteriotomy.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the pledget comprises a plurality of peripherally extending tabs configured to be received between said plurality of prongs.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the pledget has a plurality of holes, each receiving one of said plurality of prongs

Claim 5 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein said pledget comprises a woven or non-woven fabric material.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 5 wherein said fabric material comprises polyester material.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein said pledget is a polymer sheet

Claim 8 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein said pledget is bioabsorbable.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 1 further comprising the pledget having a physiologically active agent.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent is adapted to be released over a predetermined time interval.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent comprises a coating applied to said pledget.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said pledget is impregnated with said physiologically active agent.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said pledget is formed from said physiologically active agent.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent comprises an anti-microbial agent.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent comprises an antiseptic agent.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent inhibits intraluminal clotting.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent promotes extraluminal clotting.

Claims18-47 (canceled)

Claim 48 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the pledget comprises a plurality of peripheral notches, each of the prongs being disposed within one of the notches.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the staple has four prongs and further comprising the prongs being commonly connected at a crown formed at the proximal end of the staple, the crown including distally extending tabs or webs adapted to bear against the pledget.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the edges of the pledget configured to be frictionally engaged by and between the prongs of the staple are preformed before attachment to the staple.